Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell which generates electric power based on hydrogen and a oxidant gas supplied from the outside thereof;

a hydrogen gas supply flow path for supplying the hydrogen to the fuel cell;

a hydrogen off-gas circulating passage for returning ~~the~~ hydrogen off-gas from said fuel cell to said hydrogen gas supply flow path;

a hydrogen pump for boosting the hydrogen off-gas mounted in said hydrogen off-gas circulating passage;

a hydrogen off-gas bypass passage ~~for returning~~ which bypasses the hydrogen pump to return the hydrogen off-gas ~~in the hydrogen off-gas passage~~ to said hydrogen gas supply flow path; and

an ejector for sending the hydrogen off-gas in the hydrogen off-gas bypass passage to the hydrogen gas supply flow path, wherein

a back flow check device is provided at said hydrogen off-gas bypass passage for checking back flow of the hydrogen off-gas, and wherein

said back flow check device is an isolation valve, which is controlled in response to the driving state of said hydrogen pump.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein said hydrogen off-gas ~~circulation~~circulating passage and said hydrogen off-gas bypass passage are connected to ~~the~~an intake side of the ejector.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system according to claim [4]1 , wherein said ~~check~~ isolation valve is controlled so that it is closed when ~~the~~ a rotation speed of said hydrogen pump exceeds a predetermined rotation speed, and is controlled so that it is opened when the rotation speed of said hydrogen pump falls below a predetermined rotation speed.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell which generates electric power based on hydrogen and an oxidant gas supplied from the outside thereof;

a hydrogen gas supply flow path for supplying hydrogen to the fuel cell;

a hydrogen off-gas circulating passage for returning hydrogen off-gas from said fuel cell to said hydrogen gas supply flow path;

a hydrogen pump for boosting the hydrogen off-gas, mounted in said hydrogen off-gas circulating passage;

a hydrogen off-gas bypass passage which bypasses the hydrogen pump to return the hydrogen off-gas to said hydrogen gas supply flow path; and

an ejector for sending the hydrogen off-gas in the hydrogen off-gas bypass passage to the hydrogen gas supply flow path, wherein

a back flow check device is provided at said hydrogen off-gas bypass passage for checking back flow of the hydrogen off-gas, and wherein

said back flow check device is an isolation valve, which is controlled to be in a closed state when an outside temperature is above a predetermined temperature and which is controlled to be in an open state when the outside temperature is below a predetermine temperature.

9. (New) The fuel cell system according to claim 8, wherein

said hydrogen off-gas circulating passage and said hydrogen off-gas bypass passage are connected to an intake side of the ejector.

10. (New) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell which generates electric power based on hydrogen and an oxidant gas supplied from the outside thereof;

a hydrogen gas supply flow path for supplying hydrogen to the fuel cell;

a hydrogen off-gas circulating passage for returning hydrogen off-gas from said fuel cell to said hydrogen gas supply flow path;

a hydrogen pump for boosting the hydrogen off-gas, mounted in said hydrogen off-gas circulating passage;

a hydrogen off-gas bypass passage which bypasses the hydrogen pump to return the hydrogen off-gas to said hydrogen gas supply flow path; and

an ejector for sending the hydrogen off-gas in the hydrogen off-gas bypass passage to the hydrogen gas supply flow path, wherein

a back flow check device is provided at said hydrogen off-gas bypass passage for checking back flow of the hydrogen off-gas, and wherein

said back flow check device is a check valve, which allows the hydrogen off-gas to flow into said ejector from said hydrogen off-gas bypass passage, and which checks the hydrogen off-gas from flowing from the ejector to the hydrogen off-gas bypass passage.

11. (New) The fuel cell system according to claim 10, wherein

said hydrogen off-gas circulating passage and said hydrogen off-gas bypass passage are connected to an intake side of the ejector.